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THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
TO THE
ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR
1950.



Council Office,
ST. JUST.

ST. JUST URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Office,

ST. JUST,

To the Chairman and Members of the
St. Just Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

From the public health point of view the year was disappointing as though we were spared poliomyelitis and infectious diseases were of a minor nature NO progress whatever was made with housing and sewerage, while water supplies remain insecure and untreated.

I should, however, like to thank the Members of the Council for their courtesy and interest and the Clerk and his Staff for their un-failing and helpful co-operation. Mr. Lawrey, the Sanitary Inspector/Surveyor, has continued to render invaluable assistance for which I am most grateful.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W.K. DUNSCOMBE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION.
1950.

1.	Population - Registrar General's Mid Year Estimate	...	...	4,093.
2.	Area	...	...	7,761 acres.
3.	Rateable Value	...	...	£11,110.
4.	Product of 1d Rate	...	...	£44. 6. 8d.
5.	No. of Inhabited Houses	...	...	1,454.
6.	Live Births	31 Male.	24 Female.	55 Total.
	Rate per 1,000 Population	13.4		
7.	Still Births	...	...	NIL.
8.	Total Deaths	24 Male.	38 Female.	62 Total.
	Rate per 1,000 population	15.1		
9.	Infant Deaths	1 Male.	2 Female.	3 Total.
	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	54.5		
10.	Maternal Deaths	...	...	1.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	2.	1.	3.
Tuberculosis - Other.	1.	-	1.
Cancer of Stomach.	1.	3.	4.
Cancer of Breast.	-	1.	1.
Cancer of Uterus.	-	1.	1.
Cancer of other sites.	2.	4.	6.
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	2.	5.	7.
Coronary Disease.	5.	2.	7.
Hypertension.	-	2.	2.
Other Heart Disease.	2.	8.	10.
Other Circulatory Diseases.	-	1.	1.
Pneumonia.	3.	2.	5.
Bronchitis.	-	2.	2.
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.	2.	-	2.
Gastritis, Enteritis, etc.	1.	-	1.
Pregnancy, etc.	-	1.	1.
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases...	3.	5.	8.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease.	...	17.
Cancer.	...	12.
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	...	7.
Pneumonia.	...	5.

1. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA.

These do not differ to any material extent from those in past reports.

2. WATER SUPPLIES.

The relatively wet year meant that the district was not in such desperate straits as in the previous year but the water supplies still remain unsatisfactory and quite inadequate especially on the northern side of the district. An innovation was the installation of meters on the rising main to the reservoir and on the distribution main which means that for the first time we have an accurate record of the amount of water actually being supplied to the reservoir and of the amount consumed. The St. Just Churchtown supply is still not treated, and the extremely unsatisfactory conditions at Trevellard persist though it would be quite simple for the Council to have arranged the installation of a small electric pump instead of having to arrange hand pumping below ground to ensure a supply in the summer. In the Bojowyan area conditions continue to be entirely unsatisfactory and even dangerous.

A point which must be borne in mind is that the agreement with the main Owner of the Water Rights to the Praze adit will expire in 1952. As it is absolutely impossible for any portion of the Drift Scheme to be within any sight of completion until some years after that date, the agreement must be renewed.

Drift Scheme. The Council now are to participate in the Scheme involving the construction of a dam at Drift, and the pumping of water through several miles of main to the St. Just area. This cannot, therefore, come into being for several years even if no difficulty arises through calls on materials for re-armament, so that the predicament of practically all the hamlets on the North side will continue. It is obvious, therefore, that the Council must take some steps to ameliorate conditions there in the meantime for example by drilling wells in suitable sites.

3. SEWERAGE.

(a) Boscean. Nothing further has eventuated about the sewerage of the Boscean/Tregeseal area and it is not clear how far matters have proceeded following the Report rendered by Messrs. Lemon and Blizzard as a result of the complaints about the lack of sewerage there. It must, however, be obvious that things cannot be left as they are now. There is not a great alteration in the general provision, but it was possible to suggest to the Owners of the houses in Pendeen and Boscaswell within the legal distance that they should connect to the sewer. None the less there is still the extremely unpleasant necessity for the night soil cart to tour the area.

4. HOUSING.

The dismal story of complete lack of progress is still being continued. In the very early part of the year the writer made the gloomy prophecy that not one block would be laid on the proposed housing site at Boscaswell before the end of the year. Not only has this depressing forecast been borne out but several months later there was still no evidence of a start being made though it is true that a revised tender figure has been submitted to the Ministry.

Part of the delay may be attributed to the Ministry in that, having received a figure as the result of competitive tender, they then requested a reduction of nearly £450 per house. It is almost unbelievable that so large a cut in the original estimate should have been asked for and the difficulty of anywhere near approaching it should have been obvious. The decision, of course, meant further discussion with the up-till-then successful tenderers and the quantity surveyor, and guaranteed a material delay. The result is that even in 1951 we are losing the good building weather and it begins to look extremely unlikely that new houses in this district will ever be built. The delay is all the more disastrous as, lacking new houses to put people into, it is not possible to proceed to the demolition of the many houses on which official representations under Sections 11 or 25 of the Housing Act could and should, and in fact, have been made. The standard of housing in general is very low and too many lack the most ordinary amenities.

5. TUBERCULOSIS.

In the meantime there has been extensive publicity about the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in this district. The inhabitants were naturally inclined to resent this but it must be accepted as a fact that the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis in the St. Just district is considerably higher than practically anywhere else in Cornwall. It was therefore arranged that the Regional Hospital Board's Mass Radiography Unit should carry out an extended survey of the area early in the New Year. Unfortunately this was the first area in the whole region selected for this intensive kind of survey which was thought (by others) to be a good thing. It should have been obvious that a very considerable "softening up" process through several months of careful publicity both in the urban district and in the press was necessary before the inhabitants became really receptive to the idea. Unfortunately those responsible for the project in the first place only allowed less than two months for this which included the whole of the Christmas-New Year period when publicity on a matter like this is absolutely futile. None the less two voluntary committees were set up to cover the St. Just Churchtown and Pondeen/Boscaswell areas and they started to work willingly. In the next report the results and conclusions of the Survey will be detailed.

An unfortunate feature of the position as it stands at present is that with such small figures a heavy incidence in one or two families may be reflected in a marked rise in the overall rate as compared with other areas.

6. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

(a) Infectious Jaundice. The epidemic mentioned in the previous report grumbled on into April. It seemed fairly clear that personal contact was a large contributory factor.

(b) Influenza. In common with many other parts of the country the influenza epidemic hit the town at Christmas and it was not possible, therefore, to assess its effects before the year ended but the older persons, i.e. over 60 were much more often ill than those in the lower age groups.

(c) Diphtheria. Immunisation was steadily proceeded with and for its size the town makes quite a good showing. One can only say "keep it up St. Just".

(d) Food Poisoning. A total of seven cases of food poisoning was notified. In four of these no cause whatever was detected after careful investigation but in the other four, all of which were in one family on a farm, the cause was *S. Typhi-murium*. The medium was not established with absolute certainty but was in all probability ducks' eggs as the farm kept a number of ducks and the family had eaten a custard made from the eggs from several birds at the relevant time. These cases simply give point to the necessity of warning the public to exercise the greatest care in the use of duck eggs, particularly for custards, mayonnaise, etc., and one feels the Ministry should do more in bringing this matter to the notice of the public on a national scale.

7. INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

Last year I reported that after a number of attempts it had been arranged to open an Infant Welfare Centre at St. Just. The first Session was held in January and for some time the Clinic was well attended. Recently, however, I regret to state that there has been a falling off in the numbers attending without any corresponding increase as far as I know of mothers getting advice about their babies from their own Doctors.

8. COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

Considerable discussion took place on this and the Council was fortunate to have the advice of the Deputy County Planning Officer. Eventually the Council decided to consider developing two main areas :-

- (a) St. Just Churchtown. (b) The Boscaswell/Pondeen Area.

In each all the usually accepted items for the setting up of community areas are present, Churches, Schools, Public Houses, etc., though the only picture

house is in the first area. The housing plan postulated the construction of 200 new houses by 1971 in the two areas mentioned, but, although as far as area (b) is concerned the position is fairly clear and simply means extending southwards the site on which it is hoped to commence building the 10 houses mentioned previously. I have yet to learn that a final decision has been made regarding the Churchtown site. The position there is, of course, complicated by the large requirements of the Education Committee under the ridiculous building regulations now enforced by the Minister.

9. CAMPING SITES.

Camping or caravanning has come to stay whatever may be said about it and it therefore behoves the Council to bestir itself to provide one or more good sites with suitable amenities if they wish to attract visitors to what is after all a rather out-of-the-way spot. The need for economical holidays will become more and more pressing so it is only common sense to look ahead and try and provide for the demand as, once the provision is made and the facilities made available receive the necessary publicity in the appropriate journals, etc, it will soon be found that there is an extensive demand.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1950.

1. WATER.

St. Just Supply. An adequate supply was maintained, but only by using the auxiliary pump at Nancherrow.

Trewellard Supply. Pumping with the Manual Pump was carried on from the 5th June to the 9th September. This was one of the shortest periods of pumping we have ever had. During this period water was only available an hour or two each day, with no water on Sundays.

Boscawell supply. Owing to the bad state of the pipes the supply is not satisfactory. There are 10 new houses being built in this area and a new line of pipes being provided.

All other pumps and wells have been kept in order.

2. SEWERAGE.

Sewers. There have been no extensions during the year, and nothing has been done about the sewer which empties into a cesspit on the North side of the St. Just town.

3. GENERAL.

The four bathhouses have been kept in a clean state.

The schools in the area have also been kept in a clean state.

Approximately 60 lbs. of tinned and other food was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

4. NUISANCES.

			<u>Statutory</u> <u>Notice.</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notice.</u>	<u>Verbal</u> <u>Notice.</u>
Dirty Privies Cleaned	...	...	-	-	2
Defective Privies repaired	...	...	-	1	3
New W.C.s Provided	...	...	3	2	1
Choked W.C.s cleaned	...	...	-	-	3
Broken W.C. Pans replaced	...	...	-	-	3
Dirty and Overflowing Cesspits cleaned			-	1	1
Choked and Defective drains repaired			-	2	14
Various Other Notices	...	...	-	1	5
New Septic Tanks to replace Cesspits			-	-	3

5. NEW HOUSING.

5 New houses were completed at Boswidden Terrace for the Coastguard Station.

6. HOUSING REPAIRS.

	<u>Statutory</u> <u>Notice.</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notice.</u>	<u>Verbal</u> <u>Notice.</u>
Repairs carried out after	2	4	1

7. FACTORIES ACTS.

No. on Register	...	...	...	19
No. of Inspections	...	...	...	45
No. of Notices	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Prosecutions	...	...	...	Nil

OUTWORK SECTION.

NIL.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
(Corrected Notifications)
1950.

DISEASE.	PENZANCE.	WEST PENWITH.	ST. IVES.	ST. JUST.
Measles.	4.	11.	212.	-
Scarlet Fever.	7.	13.	7.	4.
Food Poisoning.	-	-	1.	7.
Whooping Cough.	44.	77.	-	30.
Acute Poliomyelitis.	2.	3.	1.	-
Diphtheria.	3.	-	9.	-
Meningococcal Infection.	-	-	1.	-
Dysentery.	-	-	3.	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	-	1.	1.	-
Pneumonia.	-	10.	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	3.	-	-
Pneumatic Chorea.	-	1.	-	-

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

1950.

Area.	Number of Children who Completed a full Course of Immunisation in 1950.			Number of Children Receiving Refresher Doses.
	<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>5 - 14.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
Penzance.	170.	38.	208.	487.
St. Ives.	98.	63.	161.	569.
West Penwith.	166.	39.	205.	397.
St. Just.	32.	19.	51.	194.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS - 1970.

		Nos. on Register 31.12.50.	1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	Over 65	Total.
<u>Penzance.</u>	Pul. M.	72.	1.	2.	3.	5.(2)	4.(2)	5.(4)	1.(1)	21.(9)	
	Pul. F.	53.	2.	1.(1)	4.	4.(1)	1.			12.(2)	
	Non-Pul. M.	5.	1.							1.	
	Non-Pul. F.	11.		1.						1.	
<u>West</u>											
<u>Penwith.</u>	Pul. M.	57.	1.	1.	4.	2.	5.	1.(1)	2.	16.(1)	
	Pul. F.	42.		1.	2.		2.	2.		7.	
	Non-Pul. M.	30.	1.	1.				2.		4.	
	Non-Pul. F.	22.	1.(1)	1.						2.(1)	
<u>St. Just.</u>	Pul. M.	30.	2.	1.		3.(1)	1.(1)	2.(1)		9.(3)	
	Pul. F.	15.		5.	2.(1)	1.(1)				8.(2)	
	Non-Pul. M.	6.									
	Non-Pul. F.	2.									
<u>St. Ives.</u>	Pul. M.	34.				1.	4.(1)	1.	2.(2)	8.(3)	
	Pul. F.	20.			3.	1.		1.(1)		5.(1)	
	Non-Pul. M.	7.	1.							1.	
	Non-Pul. F.	5.									

Total Notifications - 95.

Total Deaths - 22.